D-188 Bryan-LeCompte House Cambridge c. 1811-12 Private

The Charles Kennerly Bryan house, also known as the Bryan-LeCompte house, is a finely detailed Flemish and common bond brick dwelling dating around 1811-12. Built with high level masonry and carpentry finishes for the period, the side hall/double pile plan dwelling has experienced few significant alterations since the early nineteenth century. The High Street elevation is laid in carefully jointed pressed brick in a Flemish bond pattern, whereas the side walls were erected in five-course common bond with standard brick for the period. Each façade is marked by tall nine-over-six sash windows that are enriched with expertly cut limestone jack arches featuring slightly taller keystones. Distinguishing the gable roof are Federal cornices as well as a tall and narrowly proportioned chimney stack. The southwest gable end wall below the chimney stack is enhanced by a finely detailed Venetian window that lights the third floor.

Construction of this finely appointed brick dwelling occurred after Charles

Kennerly Bryan acquired this High Street property from William Bond Martin in March

1811 for \$600. Although the transfer price suggests an improved lot, the sum does not
reflect the value of an elaborate two-and-a-half story brick townhouse and its support
buildings. Charles K. Bryan served as a captain of an artillery company during the War
of 1812. In June 1823, Charles K. Bryan wrote his will, leaving "my brick House and
Lot of Ground whereon I now dwell" to his son Charles with home privileges to his four
daughters, Margaret, Maria, Eliza, and Adeline while they remained single and
unmarried. The house remained under Charles' ownership until September 1840 when

the property was transferred to his brother James, a resident of Petersburg, Virginia.

Three years later, the Bryan brothers conveyed all their interest in their parent's house to James's brother-in-law, Samuel Woodward LeCompte (1796-1862) for \$7,500, a substantial sum that reflects well the improved status of the High Street lot. The house descended through LeCompte family ownership until the late 1970s.

Inventory No. D-188

Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

historic	Ch	arles K Bryan House	4		
other	Ca	otain Samuel Woodward	LeCompte House, I	Bryan-LeCompt	e House
2. Location				i)	
street and numbe	er 204	High Street	(6	r	ot for publication
city, town	Car	mbridge			vicinity
county	Do	rchester			
3. Owner o	f Property	(give names and mailing a	addresses of all owner		
name		. Thomas Merryweather			
street and number		902 Bluewater Drive	telephone home:	410-228-5902	office: 228-3610
city, town	(Cambridge	state MD	zip code 2	1613
ConDeteRec	tributing Resource i ermined Eligible for ermined Ineligible fo orded by HABS/HAI	n National Register District n Local Historic District the National Register/Marylan r the National Register/Maryla ER rt or Research Report at MHT			
6. Classific	er:				
Category district	Ownershippublicx_private	Current Functionagriculturex_commerce/trade	landscape recreation/culture	Resource Contributing	Noncontributing building
x_building(s)	both	defense	religion		sites
x_building(s)structuresiteobject		domestic	social transportation		structur

7. Description

Inventory No. D-188

Condition

excellent	deteriorate
x_good	ruins
fair	altered

Prepare both a one paragraph summary and a comprehensive description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The Charles K. Bryan house, more commonly known as the Captain Samuel Woodward LeCompte house, the Bryan-LeCompte house or more simply, the LeCompte house, stands at 204 High Street in the center of Cambridge, Dorchester County, Maryland. The two-and-a-half story, three-bay side hall/double parlor brick house is supported on a raised brick foundation. The house faces northwest with the principal gable roof oriented on a northeast/southwest axis. Extending from the northeast gable end is a part brick, part frame service wing. Attached to the southeast (rear) elevation is a mid twentieth century service wing. Standing in the backyard is a single-story brick smokehouse that is a contemporary structure to the early nineteenth century house.

Built around 1811-12, the two-and-a-half story, three-bay, double-pile brick house rests on a raised brick foundation with a tightly laid High Street elevation of Flemish bond in narrow butter joints, whereas the side walls are laid in a more standard five-course common bond with more normal sized mortar joints. The walls rise to a steeply pitched gable roof dominated by an interior end brick stack that extends above the roofline on the southwest gable end. The proportions of the stack are tall and very narrow, typical of late eighteenth century chimney stacks in Annapolis. Attached to the northeast gable is a two-story part brick, part frame service wing, and to the rear is a mid twentieth century frame erected in 1957.

The southwest (main) elevation is three-bays across with the side entrance located in the northernmost bay sheltered by a third quarter of the nineteenth century hip roofed portico. The original six-panel front door is topped by a four-light transom, and the door jambs are finished with a flat panel. The adjacent bays are filled with nine-over-six sash windows topped by cut limestone jack arches with shaped keystone. Shutter dogs remain embedded in the brickwork, but shutters no longer hang on the window frames. Lighting the excavated cellar space are rectangular window openings topped by brick jack arches and fitted with diamond cross-sectioned horizontal bars. The second story is marked by three evenly spaced nine-over-six sash windows also enhanced with finely cut limestone jack arches. Stretching across the base of the roof is a Federal style cornice with original bed and crown moldings. A large early twentieth century gable roofed dormer marks the center of the gable roof, and it is fitted with a pair of six-over-six sash windows. The sides of the dormer are sheathed with novelty siding.

The southwest gable end is a broad five-course common bond wall with the same type of window openings lighting the cellar, first and second stories as the front wall. Distinguishing the upper gable end is a finely crafted Venetian or Palladian style window which lights the attic. Fixed against the brickwork below the attic window is a figure 8-shaped iron tie rod anchor. The tall and narrow brick chimney is finished with a corbelled cap, and the gable end finish of the roof is trimmed with a plain bargeboard.

Covering the northeast gable end is the part brick, part frame service wing, which has an early nineteenth century common bond first story and an early twentieth century second story. The first floor

Inventory No. D-188

Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Name Charles K. Bryan House Continuation Sheet

Number 7 Page 1

is laid in five-course common bond like the side walls, and the second story is sheathed with novelty siding. The edge of the roof is trimmed with a boxed cornice and extended eaves with returns on the gable end. Rising through the roof is an interior end brick stove chimney.

8. Signific	ance			Inventory No. D-188	
Period	Areas of Significance	Check and	justify below		
1600-1699 1700-1799 x 1800-1899 1900-1999 2000-	agriculture archeology x architecture art commerce communications community planning conservation	economics education engineering entertainment/ recreation ethnic heritage exploration/ settlement	health/medicine industry invention landscape architecture law literature maritime history military	performing arts philosophy politics/government religion science social history transportation other:	
Specific dates			Architect/Builder		
Construction d	ates				
Evaluation for:	National Degister		Mandand Desister	not auglicated	

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance projects, complete evaluation on a DOE Form – see manual.)

The Charles Kennerly Bryan house, also known as the Captain Samuel Woodward LeCompte house, or the Bryan-LeCompte house, is a finely detailed Flemish and common bond brick dwelling dating around 1812. Built with high level masonry and woodworking finishes for the period, the side hall/double pile plan dwelling has experienced few alterations since the early nineteenth century. The High Street elevation is laid in carefully jointed pressed brick in Flemish bond, whereas the side walls were erected in five-course common bond with standard brick for the time. Each façade is marked by tall nine-oversix sash windows that are enriched with expertly cut limestone jack arches featuring slightly taller keystones. Distinguishing the gable roof are original Federal cornices as well as a tall and narrowly proportioned chimney stack. The gable end wall below the chimney stack is also enhanced by a finely detailed Venetian window.

Construction of this finely executed side hall/double pile plan brick dwelling dates around 1811-12, soon after Charles Kennerly Bryan acquired this High Street lot from William Bond Martin for \$600. \(^1\) Although the transfer price suggests an improved lot the sum does not reflect the value of an elaborate two-and-a-half story brick townhouse and its support buildings. Charles K. Bryan served as a captain of an artillery company during the War of 1812. \(^2\) In June 1823, Charles K. Bryan wrote his will, leaving "my brick House and Lot of Ground whereon I now dwell" to his son Charles with home privileges to his four daughters, Margaret, Maria, Eliza, and Adeline, while they remained single and unmarried. \(^3\) The house remained under Charles' ownership until September 1840 when the property was transferred to his brother James, a resident of Petersburg, Virginia. \(^4\) Three years later, the Bryan brothers conveyed all their interest in their parent's house to James's brother-in-law, Samuel Woodward LeCompte (1796-1862) for \$7,500, a substantial sum that reflects the well the improved status of the High Street lot. \(^5\) The house descended through LeCompte family ownership until the late 1970s. \(^6\)

¹ Dorchester County Land Record, HD 28/186, 27 March 1811, Dorchester County Courthouse.

² Elias Jones, New Revised History of Dorchester County, Maryland. Cambridge, Maryland: Tidewater Publishers, 1966, p. 292.

³ Dorchester County Will Book, TTH 1/73, Written 6.18.1823, Refiled after courthouse fire, 9.1.1852.

Dorchester County Land Record, ER 18/113, 5 September 1840, Dorchester County Courthouse.

⁵ Dorchester County Land Record, WJ 1/412, 22 June 1843, Dorchester County Courthouse.

⁶ Dorchester County Land Record, PLC 205/622, 30 June 1978, Dorchester County Courthouse.

Inventory No. D-188

Name Charles K. Bryan House (Bryan-LeCompte House)

Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 1

Charles Kennerly Bryan House (Bryan-LeCompte House) 204 High Street Cambridge, Maryland

Chain-of-title

PLC 309/359

Cynthia R. Fehsenfeld

to

8.12.1994

E. Thomas Merryweather

204 High Street \$114,000

PLC 243/323

William F. Blue and the Mercantile Safe Deposit & Trust Co.

to

1.13.1987

Cynthia R. Fehsenfeld

\$95,000.00

PLC 243/321

William F. Blue and Mercantile Safe Deposit & Trust Co., Persona

Representative of David T. Fehsenfeld

to

1.13.1987

William F. Blue, Mercantile Safe Deposit & Trust Co., Trustees of

of the Marital Trust under Will of David T. Fehsenfeld

Inventory No. D-188

Name

Charles K. Bryan House (Bryan-LeCompte House)

Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 2

220/177

William Albert Eckert and Laurie E. Eckert

to

9.2.1981

David T. Fehsenfeld

\$70,000.00

PLC 205/622

Constance C. Corkran

to

6.30.1978

William Albert Eckert and Laurie E. Eckert

PLC 187/215

Constance C. Corkran and Victor H. Laws, Personal Rep. of Estate of Clarence H. Corkran, Jr.

to

10.30.1974

Constance C. Corkran

PLC 177/18

Mary Lee Dunn, widow

to

11.13.1972

Clarence C. Corkran, Jr.

Inventory No. D-188

Name

Charles K. Bryan House (Bryan-LeCompte House)

Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 4

Will Book EWL 1/218

Last Will and Testament of Capt. Samuel Woodward LeCompte

Written 10.18.1859 Proved 2.1.1862 I give and devise all my real and personal estate whereon the same may be situated to my beloved wife Mary R. LeCompte to her heirs and assigns

Executor Alexander H. Bayly

Inventory EWL 2/9

Inventory of the Estate of Capt. Samuel W. LeCompte

"ornaments in the two parlors"

30 slaves

2.28.1862

Total Value \$6,662.75

WJ 1/412

Charles and James Bryan, Petersburg, Virginia

to

6.22.1843

Samuel Woodward LeCompte

ER 18/113

Charles Bryan, City of Baltimore

to

9.5.1840

James Bryan, City of Petersburg, Virginia

Inventory No. D-188

Name Charles K. Bryan House (Bryan-LeCompte House) **Continuation Sheet**

Number 8 Page 3

RSM 49/433

J. Thomas Leonard

to

4.29.1944

Mary Lee Dunn Carlton M. Dunn

RSM 49/432

Mary Lee Dunn Carlton M. Dunn

to

5.29.1944

J. Thomas Leonard

Lot No. 1 "Bayly Building" fronting 17' on High Street and and 70' on Court Lane; it being the first parcel of land described in a deed to Esther L. James from Carlton M. Dunn and Mary Lee R. Dunn, dated 13 June 1934, JFD 31/165

Lot No. 2 "James Home Property" lying between Lot No. 1 and the home property of James Benjamin Brown, Jr. being the present home property of the said Mary Lee R. Dunn and Carlton M. Dunn

Will Book RSM 4/485

Last Will and Testament of Esther LeCompte James

to niece

1939

Mary Lee Dunn-all the rest and residue of my estate

Will also directed text for her tombstone with parents Daniel N. and Sophia LeCompte James, b. 1876 – d. [1939]

Chief Nurse, U.S.N. 4.5.09 – 9.1.33

Inventory No. D-188

Name Charles K. Bryan House (Bryan-LeCompte House)
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 5

\$7,500 all that lot or parcel of ground with the two story dwelling house & other improvements thereon situated and lying in the Town of Cambridge...

Will Book TTH 1/73

Last Will and Testament of Charles K. Bryan

Written 6.18.1823 Refiled after courthouse fire on 9.1.1852 1st- I give and devise unto my son Charles Bryan his heirs and assigns forever my brick House and Lot of Ground whereon I now dwell

four daughters Margaret, Maria, Eliza, and Adeline, a home and privilege of residence in the said Dwelling House and Lot belonging to the same so long as they shall or may live single or unmarried

HD 28/186

William Bond Martin

to

3.27.1811

Charles K. Bryan

\$600

HD 19/323

John Murray

to

4.28.1802

William Bond Martin

L 187..10..0

9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. D-188

Dorchester County Land Records, various volumes, Dorchester County Courthouse.

Jones, Elias, New Revised History of Dorchester County, Maryland, Cambridge, Maryland: Tidewater Publishers, 1966.

10. Geographical Da	nta		
Acreage of surveyed property Acreage of historical setting	½ acre		
Quadrangle name	Cambridge, MD	Quadrangle scale:	1:24,000

Verbal boundary description and justification

The metes and bounds of this property are coincidental with the current boundary of the lot.

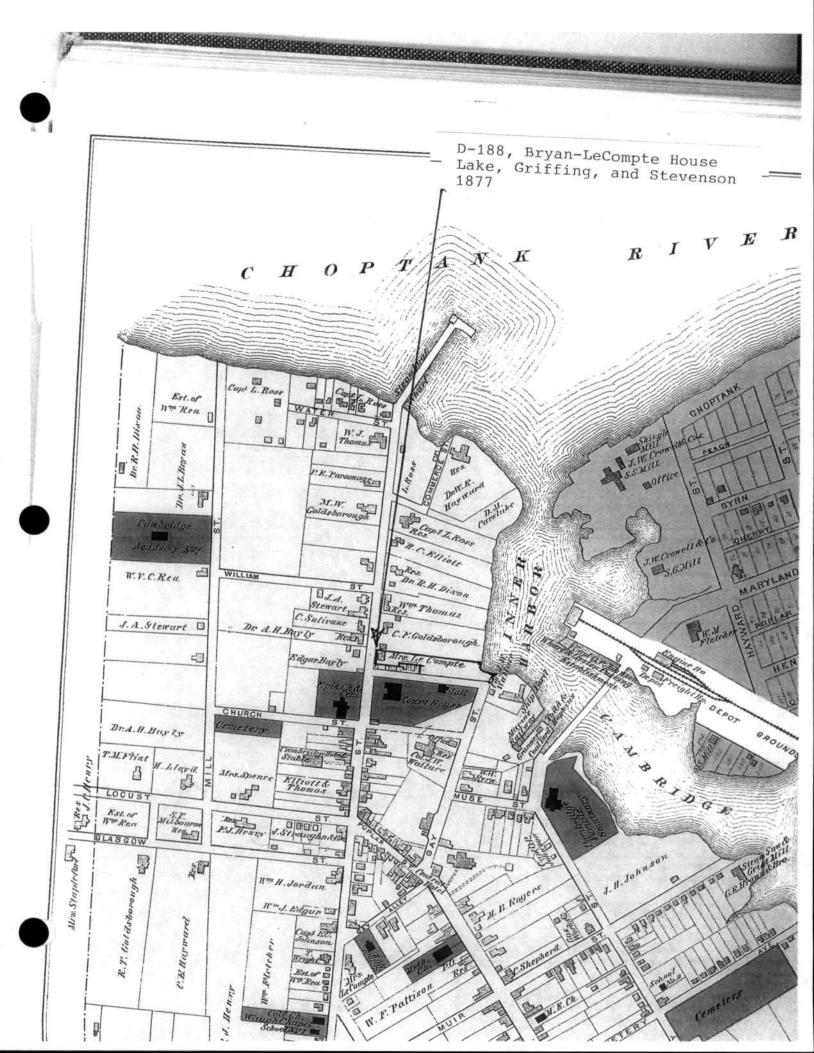
11. Form Pre	pared by		
name/title	Paul B. Touart, Architectural Historian		
organization	Chesapeake Country Heritage & Preservation	date	7/09/2008
street & number	Cedar Hill, P. O. Box 5	telephone	410-651-1094
city or town	Westover	state	Maryland 21871

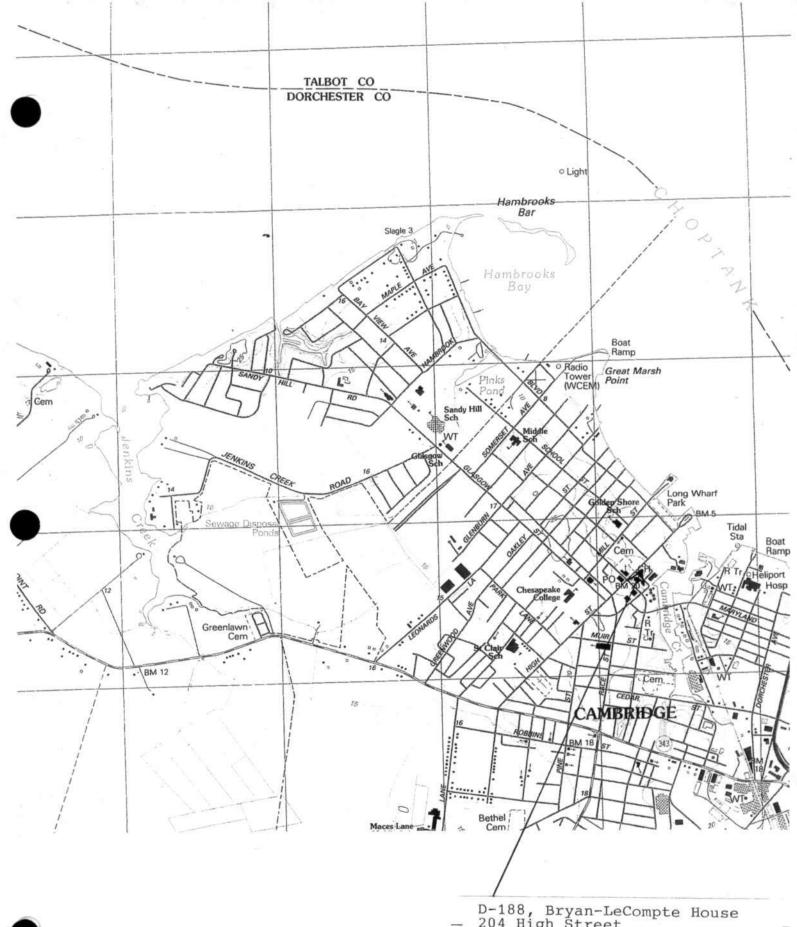
The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to:

Maryland Historical Trust DHCD/DHCP 100 Community Place Crownsville, MD 21032-2023 410-514-7600





D-188, Bryan-LeCompte House 204 High Street Cambridge, MD Quadrangle, 1988



CHARLES K. BRY TV House (LECOMPTE House) CAMBRIBGE, DORCHISTAR Co. as NVRTHUFST ELEVATION 8/08, PAUL TOWART, PITOTO. NEZ. / MB. 1+STYRICAL TRUST /2



CHARLES K. BRYAN HOUSE (LECOMPTE Honse) CAMISRIAGE, DURCHESTER G., MD. Wonner tos ELEVATION 80/08 Para Tourset PHOTISONDIFICE WELL MD. HISTIKICA TRUTT

D-188
Bryan-LeCompte House
204 High Street
Cambridge
Private

Charles K. Bryan built this house and described it in his will in 1823 as "my brick House and Lot of Ground wherein I now dwell." The house passed to his children and was sold in 1842 to Captain Samuel Woodward LeCompte, who had served in the U.S. Navy in the war of 1812; it has been in the possession of LeCompte's descendants ever since. The present owner, the great-granddaughter of Captain LeCompte, has owned the house since 1939. She added a wing to the house in 1957. The lot on which this building stands originally extended to Cambridge Creek and included the land where 507 and 509 Court Lane now stand. The two properties were built on land leased from Captain LeCompte's widow in 1875.

The house, although altered, is one of the best surviving examples of Federal style architecture in Cambridge. The interior of the older part of the house is still graced by the original random-width floor-boards.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST WORKSHEET

NOMINATION FORM for the NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES, NATIONAL PARKS SERVICE

	AND/OR HISTORIC:		*****			
					2	
2.	LOCATION					
	STREET AND NUMBER:					
	204 High St	reet				
	CITY OR TOWN:					
	Cambridge					
	STATE		C	OUNTY:		
	Maryland			I	Dorchester	
3.	CLASSIFICATION	·			1	
	(Check One)		OWNERSHIP		STATUS	TO THE PUBLIC
	District Building	☐ Public	Public Acquisition	12	○ Occupied	Yes:
	☐ Site ☐ Structure	T Private	☐ In Proces	15	Unoccupied	Restricted
	Object	☐ Both	☐ Being Co	nsidered	Preservation work	Unrestricted
	SERVI US				in progress	⊠ No
	PRESENT USE (Check One or M	fore as Appropriate)				
	☐ Agricultural ☐ G	overnment] Park		Transportation	Comments
	☐ Commercial ☐ In	dustrial 🛣	Private Residenc	• [Other (Specify)	
	☐ Educational ☐ M	ilitary	Religious	-		
	☐ Entertainment ☐ M	useum	Scientific	_		
4.	OWNER OF PROPERTY					
	OWNER'S NAME:					*****
	Mary L. Du	nn and Con	stance C.	Corkr	an	
	STREET AND NUMBER:					
	204 High S	treet				
	CITY OR TOWN:			STATE:		
	Cambridge			M	aryland	21613
5.	LOCATION OF LEGAL DESC	RIPTION				20
	COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF	DEEDS, ETC:				
	Dorchester	County Co	urthouse			
	STREET AND NUMBER:					
	206 High S	treet				
	CITY OR TOWN:			STATE		
	Cambridge				Maryland	21613
	Title Reference	of Current	Deed (Boo	k & Pg	. #): Liber	187/Folio
-	REPRESENTATION IN EXIST	ING SURVEYS				. 5-1
6,	TITLE OF SURVEY:					
6.						
6,	DATE OF SURVEY:		☐ Federal	State	County	Local
6,	DATE OF SURVEY: DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RE	CORDS:	☐ Federal	State	County	Local
6,		CORDS:	☐ Federal	☐ State	County	Local

	T			(Check One)		
CONDITION	☐ Excellent	C Good	☐ Fair	Deteriorated	Ruins	-Unexposed
CONDITION		(Check On	e)		(Ch	eck One)
	⊠ Alter	ed	☐ Unaltered		Moved	K Original Site

This Federal style house, constructed of brick, consists of a two and one half story main portion and a two story wing added to the north end. This is the original part of the house, constructed in 1803. An additional wing was added to the rear in 1946.

The main portion consists of a three bay front with an off center door on the north end. A screened portico with an awning has been added in front of the door, most likely at a later date. The windows are nine over six sash with keystones above. There is a chimney on the south end and a Palladian window in the gable below the chimney. The large dormer with a double window on the front is not in keeping with the Federal style and was apparently added later.

There is a gabled roof over both the wing and the main portion. The wing is two bays long, with a chimney on the north end. The windows are six over six sash and there are flat arches over the lower windows.

PERIOD (Check One or More as	Appropriate)		
Pre-Columbian	☐ 16th Century	☐ 18th Century	20th Century
☐ 15th Century	☐ 17th Century	19th Century	
SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicat	ole and Known) 180	3	
AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Ch	eck One or More as Appropr	riate)	
Abor iginal	☐ Education	☐ Political	Urban Planning
☐ Prehistoric	Engineering	Religion/Phi-	Other (Specify)
☐ Historic	☐ Industry	losophy	
☐ Agriculture	☐ Invention	Science	V
Architecture	☐ Landscape	☐ Sculpture	
☐ Aft	Architecture	Social/Human-	
☐ Commerce	Literature	itarian	
Communications	Military	Theater	
□ Conservation	Music	☐ Transportation	
Mr. Bryan who was a remained i	sold the hous Captain in th n the same fa . Although a	It in 1803 by a se to Samuel Wood se Navy. The ho mily for four g altered, this ho viving Federal	dward Lecompte buse has generations buse has signif

T			and the second second second second
Mary L. Dunn, owner of the	ho	use	
9			
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA			
DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY	0	DEFINING THE CENTER	GITUDE COORDINATES POINT OF A PROPERTY AN TEN ACRES
CORNER LATITUDE LONGITUDE	R	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE
Degrees Minutes Seconds Degrees Minutes Second		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds
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SE			
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	•		
NAME AND TITLE: Catherine L. Moore,			· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
NAME AND TITLE:			DATE
Catherine L. Moore,			DATE 11/3/75
Catherine L. Moore, ORGANIZATION STREET AND NUMBER:			
Catherine L. Moore, ORGANIZATION STREET AND NUMBER: Route 3, Box 32 CITY OR TOWN:	[5	STATE	
Catherine L. Moore, ORGANIZATION STREET AND NUMBER: Route 3, Box 32 CITY OR TOWN: Cambridge		Maryland	11/3/75
Catherine L. Moore, ORGANIZATION STREET AND NUMBER: Route 3, Box 32 CITY OR TOWN: Cambridge		Maryland	11/3/75
Catherine L. Moore, ORGANIZATION STREET AND NUMBER: Route 3, Box 32 CITY OR TOWN: Cambridge State Liaison Officer Review:		Maryland Office Use Only	11/3/75
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Catherine L. Moore, ORGANIZATION STREET AND NUMBER: Route 3, Box 32 CITY OR TOWN: Cambridge State Liaison Officer Review:	(rty	Maryland Office Use Only	11/3/75
Catherine L. Moore, ORGANIZATION STREET AND NUMBER: Route 3, Box 32 CITY OR TOWN: Cambridge State Liaison Officer Review: Significance of this prope	(rty	Maryland Office Use Only	11/3/75
Catherine L. Moore, ORGANIZATION STREET AND NUMBER: Route 3, Box 32 CITY OR TOWN: Cambridge State Liaison Officer Review: Significance of this prope	(rty	Maryland Office Use Only	11/3/75

204 HIGH STREET CAMBRIDGE, MARYLAND

PLC 187/215

This house dates from 1811 when it was built by Charles K. Bryan. He described this house in his will in 1823 as "my brick House and Lot of Ground wherein I now dwell." ¹ The house passed to his children and was sold in 1842 to Captain Samuel Woodward Le Compte, who had served in the U.S. Navy in the War of 1812, and has been in the possession of his descendants ever since. The present owner is the great granddaughter of Captain LeCompte and has owned the house since 1939. She added a wing to the house in 1957. The lot on which this building stands originally extended to Cambridge Creek and included the land where 507 and 509 Court Lane now stand. These two properties were built on land leased from Captain LeCompte's widow in 1875.

The house is one of the few surviving examples of Federal style architecture in Cambridge. The interior of the older part of the house still contains the original random width floor boards and appears to have been altered very little since the house was built. This house contributes to the historical and architectural character of High Street, which contains several homes dating from the mid-eighteenth to the early nineteenth centuries.

THH 1/73, Will Records, Dorchester County Courthouse, Cambridge, Maryland.

SOURCES:

Dorchester County Courthouse, Cambridge, Maryland

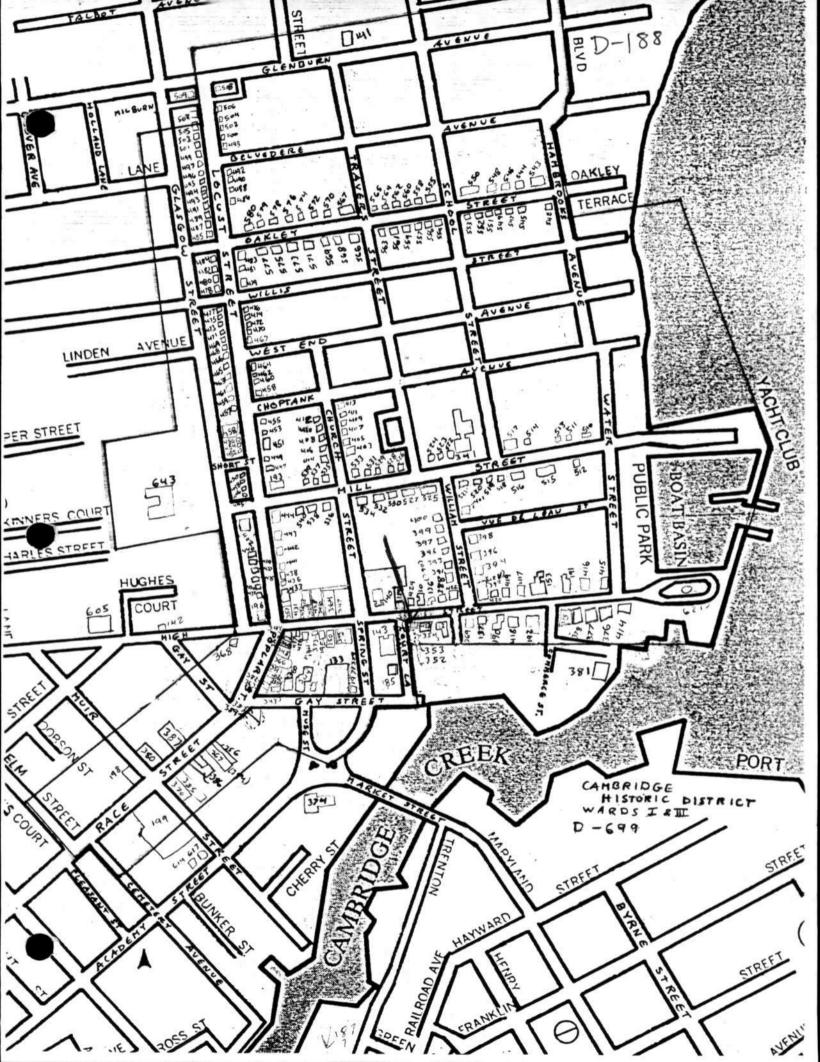
Land Records

Will Records.

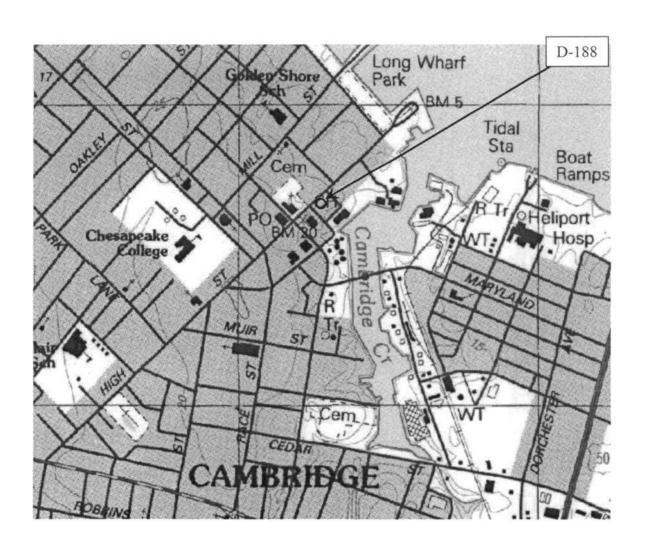
Interview, Mary Lee Dunn, 204 High Street, owner.

Research by:

Terrance Walbert



D-188
Bryan-LeCompte House
204 High St.
Cambridge
Cambridge Quad.
Dorchester Co.





D-188 204 High Sheet



204 High St., Cambridge, Md. - West Facade -C.L. Moore, 1976 D-181